

A
Strange and V.Vonderfull
RELATION

Of a Flight of

44.5.17

3

Pismires,

That fell in the Town of Lichfield,
and about the City of *Coventrey*. *K*

WITH

The manner of their appearance in
the Air; And their settling in the Town: At-
tested by several credible *Witnesses*.

Licensed according to Order.

LONDON,

Printed for E. H. MDCLXIX.

RELATION

Of a Flight of

Pilgrims

and about the City of Coventry

The manner of their appearance in
the Air; And their falling in the Town: As
related by several credible Witnesses

Printed according to Act

LONDON,

Printed for E. H. MDCCLXIX.



A

Strange and VVonderful Relation

OF

A Flight of Pismires, &c:

THere are two things which are in this, as all former Ages, worthy of the severest reproof, and they are *Credulity*, or a too light and easie belief on the one hand; and *Incredulity*, when men will not acknowledg or assent unto what is reasonably inferred; and this later too frequently befalls *Wise men*, though as *absurd* as the apprehensions of *Fools*, and the credulity of the people which promiscuously swallow any thing. We are not intending to obtrude upon the *World* any far-fetcht *Forraign* matter, which a man had much better to believe than to go to proye or to

A 2

beg

beg your compassion from some Poetical Metamorphosis, but briefly & in the words of truth to give you the Relation of some few matters which have by the Attestation of many *Credible Witnesses*, hapned here within our own World since the later end of *July* last. The things indeed some of them for their matter and circumstance so strange and unheard-of, that I have not met with a Parallell in any Ancient or Modern Inquirer into the strange Accidents of present or past Times.

In the Town of *Lichfield* in *Staffordshire*, a place of remark, in its being a Bishops See, on the one and thirtieth day of *July* last, being *Saturday*, between the hours of twelve and one a clock, in the time of a full Market, (that being a market-day there) on a suddain there appeared an innumerable Swarm of *Pismires* or *Ants* with wings, which by their close keeping in a body, therewith and with their wings clouded and made dark the Skye; So many of them settled together in the Market-Place, and in several other Streets and Houses, that the ground was covered, and the market-

market-people so annoyed, that they were forced to break up and be gone sooner by far then they used to do; for by *Three of the Clock in the Afternoon the whole Market was dissolved*: both *People and Horses* so grievously stung and tormented therewith, that they were forced to make what escape they could from them: Some *Horses* through the torment of their stinging ran up and down more like wilde Creatures, than such as had been accustomed to the Saddle or burdens. Several of the *Workmen* that were employed about the repair of *Lichfield Minster*, were stung with them: And the *People* that were at *Harvest-Work* in the *Fields*, were forced to leave their businesse: After their continuance in this manner for three or four hours, or more, many of them fell down dead both in the *Streets* and *Houses*, but especially in the *Streets* in such prodigious quantities, that the *Horses* Hoofs were covered over treading among them: and not much lesse number in the houses, so that the *People* were compelled to sweep them out together; which being by that means brought together, made several heaps of them, to the bignesse of a bushell

ballsell of Corn or larger; They were judged by severall of those that saw them, to have come out of the *East*. At length, the living remainder of them, which was not small, took their Flight to the Towns-end towards the *North*, where dividing themselves, as it were, into two bodies, they parted, some of them flying one way, some another: yet notwithstanding left both their terrour and marks behind them among the People, who at the strangeness of the Prodigy were so much affrighted, that they knew not what to say or do, but very much admired the strangeness of the thing. These *Pismires* or *Ants* were not like those that are commonly found in *Mole-hills*, but a great deal bigger, they were judged to be about the bignesse of a Spider.

The like thing about the same time happened (with some small varying circumstances) about the City of *Coventry* in *Warwick-shire*, twenty miles from *Lichfield*, where multitudes of them fell, and in severall other places; but we need not run over the Particulars anew, to trouble the Reader twice with one thing.

This

This is the substance of what is received from persons of Eminency and Reputation, of whom Mr. *Archbold*, Register, is one, Mr. *Boylston* an Apothecary; Mr. *John Rawlins*, Town-Clerk; Mr. *Samuel Markland*, one of His Majesties Servants, and Mr. *James Rixam*, all Eye-witnesses thereof, besides many more, which would be too tedious here to mention.

F I N I S.

This is the substance of what is received from
 persons of Eminency and Reputation, of whom
 Mr. Jacobus Register, is one, Mr. Bishop an
 Apothecary, Mr. John Keeling, Town-Clerk,
 Mr. Samuel Maryland, one of His Majesty's Ser-
 vants, and Mr. James Rixson, all Eye-witnesses
 thereof, besides many more, which would be too
 tedious here to mention.

21012

